

Hundreds show support for station

By Travis Caperton

STAFF REPORTER

More than 600 students signed a petition Tuesday in support of a student-operated radio station, petition organizers said.

"Now that I see that there is a broader base of support for this project, I am very optimistic," said Jenks sophomore George Lang, one of several involved in getting the most recent student radio campaign underway.

"Based on just the informal polling that we have done, you can tell that there is a definite need for it," Lang said.

Several students voiced strong support for the station as they signed the petition.

Tulsa freshman Richard Perisho said a student-run station would be more in tune with students.

"I want to hear anything that your average Top 40 station would be scared to play," Perisho said.

Fort Worth, Texas, junior Dan Jackson said coming to Oklahoma was like walking into a "radio wasteland."

"Oklahoma needs a decent radio station," he said.

Not all those who signed the petition were concerned with the music programming of the proposed station.

Al Garcia, a Corpus Christi, Texas, freshman, said the station would be an outlet for opinion and make public many of the problems with minorities on campus.

"It would be a perfect addition to the campus newspaper," Garcia said.

"A radio station run solely by students would definitely be beneficial to OU," Del City sophomore Nia Hill said.

"It would promote a greater general awareness among students because students are interested in what other students do," she said.

David Hammons, an Oklahoma City senior, said it is "ridiculous" OU doesn't have a radio station.

"I don't think that the university has enough guts to give us one," Hammons said.

The project organizers — Tuttle senior Jim Rogers, Miami junior Jim Rutter and Chicago sophomore Taylor Wilken — must apply for an FCC license. In order to apply for a license, an engineering study must be conducted to determine what frequencies are available and at what wattage the students can broadcast.

The study will cost approximately \$350.

In addition to the hundreds of students, many faculty members also turned out to show support, including visiting assistant professor of English Tricia Welsch.

"It is amazing that we don't have a student-run radio station here," Welsch said.

Signatures will be collected again from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today near the Bizzell statue on the South Oval. An open meeting will be held at 5 p.m. today in Dining Room A of Oklahoma Memorial Union to discuss the student radio station.



David Hammons, an Oklahoma City senior, signs a petition supporting a student radio station on the South Oval Tuesday. Photo by Travis Caperton

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